

WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER

A STUDENT GUIDE



parent signature x _____

Parents,
Please initial

State Projects

below
↓
There are several parts to the State Research Project for 7th Grade. These activities will take a great deal of effort, so we will spend several weeks to complete them. Some work will be done at home, some will be done at school.

The following are the various parts of this project (check off when completed).

_____ 1. Email/mail the state tourism office to request information, brochures and a map of the state. (homework)

_____ 2. Fill in the "Facts at a Glance" table with the most up-to-date information possible (check <http://state.1keydata.com/california.php> or <http://www.50states.com/> or www.infoplease.com, or <http://www.postcardsfrom.com/t1/971013.html>). (homework)

_____ 3. Gather your resources for your research paper (5+ paragraph report). You must have a minimum of 4 varied resources of the following: 1+ books, 1 encyclopedia excerpt, 1+ internet source. (school and home)

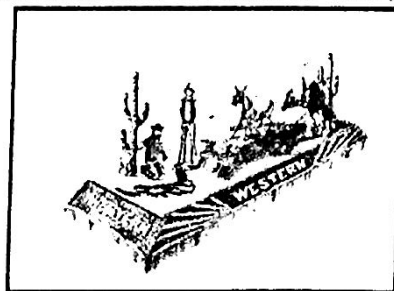
_____ 4. Make note-cards from resources. .Submit a bibliography (include in final report).

_____ 5. Complete an outline for the report (use outline template)

_____ 6. At least two different types of hand-drawn maps (#1 physical map with capital & major cities , plus maps showing product/manufacturing, population density, etc). check <http://www.50states.com/maps/> for blank maps (homework)- include in report.

_____ 7. Written 5 paragraph report (rough draft at school) Use teacher outline provided as model.

_____ 8. State float* displaying symbols of the state. (homework) *Alternate Plan: A state paper quilt that includes the same content criteria as the float.



_____ 9 A Power Point Presentation following teacher template that covers major sections of your written report. (school) State song MIDI files can be found on www.50states.com.

_____ 10. Oral presentation of your state with the Power Point (3-5 minutes in length).

Facts at a Glance

BY _____

Name	
date entered statehood	
state abbreviation	
state capital	
state population (as of 2005)	
state nickname	
state song	
state bird	
state flower	
state _____	
state _____	
state _____	
largest city	
Major Sports teams	
other	

State Report

1. COVER

List the following information on your top cover sheet:

Title	(name of your state)
Name	(your own, first & last) and <i>period</i>
Grade	
Teacher	
Date	(Date that report is due)

Include hand drawn state flag

2. Facts at a Glance -Pg. 2

3. paragraph 1 -INTRODUCTION--

Write about these using complete sentences:

- Include the name of your state
- Briefly describe what you will be writing and showing in your report such as interesting facts the reader will learn about (why should others want to live or visit there)
- Location, bordering states and/or countries

4. paragraph 2 HISTORY--

Write about at least **two** of these topics: *Statehood* Explorers* Indian tribes * Settlers * Government* Past and current events * Wars and battles, famous people

5. paragraph 3 GEOGRAPHY and CLIMATE--

Write about the geography and climate of your state- (how does the geography affect the climate?)

- Make a physical map with the state capital and the major cities.
It should also include at:
 - Rivers and other bodies of water
 - Physical features (forests, mountains, plains, deserts, valleys, caverns, caves, canyons, etc.)
 - Major points of interest (historical and recreational sites)
- Make a map or chart about **one** of the following:
 - Average rainfall (precipitation)
 - Average temperatures (summer and winter)

6. paragraph 4 NATURAL RESOURCES / INDUSTRY/ PRODUCTS --

Write about the natural resources/industries/products of your state (crops, mining, industries)

You can include pictures, or a map or chart

7. paragraph 5 CLOSING PARAGRAPH (CONCLUSION)

Answer these questions using complete sentences for each category.

- What is the most interesting thing about your state? Why?
- Why should others want to visit or live there?
- Tell about three things everyone should know and remember about your state (you should have already gone into detail about them in the report.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY - last page

List at least four resources you used for your report. It must include books, an encyclopedia, and internet source. Must use proper bibliographical format.

STATE REPORT OUTLINE

Title _____

I. Introduction paragraph- brief – do not go into detail

Thesis (main topic) _____

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

Conclusion _____

II. Body Paragraph

A. History _____

1. support #1 _____

2. support #2 _____

3. support #3 _____

conclusion _____

III. Body Paragraph

B. Geography & Climate _____

1. support #1 _____

2. support #2 _____

3. support #3 _____

conclusion _____

IV. Body Paragraph

C. Natural Resources,/Industries./Products _____

1. support #1 _____

2. support #2 _____

3. support #3 _____

conclusion _____

V. Concluding Paragraph – review- do not go into detail

Thesis (repeat main topic) _____

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

Conclusion (repeat topics of three body paragraphs) _____

Name:

Date:

PLAN IT

Plan a research report on the geography, culture, and history of your state. Write down the sources you find in the appropriate spaces below.

BOOKS:

ENCYCLOPEDIAS:

PERIODICALS:

WEBSITES:

THINK ABOUT IT

When you need to research something, what are the first three sources you check, and why?

Power Point Presentation

slide #1	Cover ___ state name- ___ 1-2 pictures/symbols that represent state ___ author ___ teacher name ___ school ___ year
slide #2	State symbols ___ state flag ___ state nickname ___ 2-4 other symbols of state ___ graphics
slide #3	Basic Facts ___ capital ___ statehood ___ population ___ largest city ___ 2 own choice ___ graphics
slide #4	Geography ___ location in US ___ political map with capital
slide #5	History ___ important dates ___ famous people ___ graphics
slide #6	Geography ___ physical map ___ describe region
slide #7	Climate ___ high ave temp ___ low ave. temp ___ Graph-
slide #8	Economy ___ major industries ___ major crops/products ___ Tourism (why people visit the state) ___ graphics
slide #9	Conclusion Explain what makes your state a great place to live or visit- your VOICE
slide #10	bibliography with links used

Each slide should include **1 or more** graphics (clip art, photos, maps or graphs). You may include personal photos from your own travels. (Bring in the photos on a flash drive to upload to file at school.)

You will not write everything down in your PPT, you will want to embellish (give more details and information) during your presentation - Use 1 index card for each slide.